

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**21. (Currently Amended)** A portable terminal that ~~combines-is operable to combine~~ a background image for a background and a captured image ~~that is captured~~, said portable terminal comprising:

a background image acquiring section operable to acquire the background image;

a captured image acquiring section operable to acquire the captured image;

a mask information acquiring section operable to acquire mask information in which a plurality of areas for combining the captured image are designated; in response to an instruction of a user; and

an image combining section operable to combine the captured image ~~acquired by the captured image acquiring section and the background image acquired by the background image acquiring section~~ in the area plurality of areas designated by the mask information ~~acquired by the mask information acquiring section~~,

wherein an order ~~for combining the captured image of the plurality of areas~~ is predetermined ~~for the plurality of areas~~ to cause each of the plurality of areas to interrelate with one another, and

the image combining section ~~combines-is further operable to combine~~ the captured image in the plurality of areas sequentially according to the predetermined order.

**22. (Currently Amended)** The portable terminal according to claim 21, wherein the image combining section ~~changes-is further operable to change~~ the order of the plurality of areas in which the captured image is to be combined; in response to an instruction of a user.

**23. (Currently Amended)** The portable terminal according to claim 21; further comprising a background image creating section operable to create the background image by displaying a captured image acquired by the captured image acquiring section as a moving image while displaying ~~an area~~ one of the plurality of areas designated by the mask information ~~acquired by the mask information acquiring section~~, and entering the captured image.

**24. (Currently Amended)** The portable terminal according to claim 23,

wherein the background image creating section ~~links~~is further operable to link the created background image with the mask information ~~that has been used~~ when creating the background image, and

when the background image is linked with the mask information, the mask information acquiring section ~~acquires~~is further operable to acquire the linked mask information.

**25. (Currently Amended)** The portable terminal according to claim 21, further comprising:

an intermediate information creating section operable to generate intermediate information showing a halfway state in image-combining generated by the image combining section, and

an intermediate information transmitting section operable to transmit the intermediate information created by the intermediate information generating section to an external device.

**26. (Currently Amended)** The portable terminal according to claim 25, wherein the intermediate information creating section ~~creates~~is further operable to create the intermediate information such that the intermediate information includes unused area information showing an area of the plurality of areas in which ~~a~~the captured image is not yet combined.

**27. (Currently Amended)** The portable terminal according to claim 26,

wherein when the intermediate information is transmitted from an external device, which is not in its own terminal, then the image combining section ~~combines~~is further operable to combine a captured image acquired by the captured image acquiring section in an area of the plurality of areas designated by the unused area information included in the intermediate information.

**28. (Currently Amended)** The portable terminal according to claim 21,

wherein the image combining section ~~combines~~is further operable to combine the captured image acquired by the captured image acquiring section such that the captured image is

displayed as a moving image in ~~the area~~one of the plurality of areas.

**29. (Currently Amended)** The portable terminal according to claim 28,

wherein, in response to an instruction of a user, the image combining section ~~enters~~is further operable to enter the captured image displayed as a moving image and ~~combines~~is further operable to combine the background image and the captured image ~~that is determined~~.

**30. (Currently Amended)** The portable terminal according to claim 21,

wherein the background image is linked with the mask information, and  
the mask information acquiring section ~~acquires~~is further operable to acquire mask information that is linked with the background image.

**31. (Currently Amended)** The portable terminal according to claim 21, further comprising a background image storing portion operable to store at least one of ~~the~~a plurality of background images,

wherein the background image acquiring section ~~acquires~~is further operable to acquire the background image from ~~the~~a background image storing portion.

**32. (Currently Amended)** The portable terminal according to claim 21, further comprising a camera portion operable to capture an image,

wherein the background image acquiring section ~~acquires~~is further operable to acquire an image captured by the camera portion as the background image.

**33. (Currently Amended)** The portable terminal according to claim 21, further comprising a communication portion operable to communicate with an external device,

wherein the background image acquiring section ~~acquires~~is further operable to acquire the background image from an external device via the communication portion.

**34. (Currently Amended)** The portable terminal according to claim 21, further comprising a camera portion operable to capture an image,

wherein the captured image acquiring section ~~acquires~~ is further operable to acquire an image captured by the camera portion as the captured image.

**35. (Currently Amended)** The portable terminal according to claim 21, further comprising a communication portion operable to communicate with an external device,

wherein the captured image acquiring section ~~acquires~~ is further operable to acquire the captured image from an external device via the communication portion.

**36. (Currently Amended)** The portable terminal according to claim 21, further comprising a mask information storing portion operable to store at least one ~~of the~~ mask information ~~images~~ image,

wherein the mask information acquiring section ~~acquires~~ is further operable to acquire the mask information from the mask information storing portion.

**37. (Currently Amended)** The portable terminal according to claim 21, further comprising a communication portion operable to communicate with an external device,

wherein the mask information acquiring section ~~acquires~~ is further operable to acquire the mask information from an external device via the communication portion.

**38. (Currently Amended)** A method for processing, using a portable terminal, that combines a background image for a background and a captured image ~~that is captured~~, said method comprising:

~~a step of~~ acquiring the background image;

~~a step of~~ acquiring the captured image;

~~a step of~~ acquiring mask information in which a plurality of areas to be used for combining the captured image with the background image are designated in response to an instruction of a user; and

~~a step of combining the captured image and the background image that are acquired in the~~  
plurality of areas ~~area-~~designated by the mask information ~~that is acquired,~~

wherein an order ~~for combining the captured image~~ of the plurality of areas is  
predetermined ~~for the plurality of areas~~ to cause each of the plurality of areas to interrelate with  
one another, and

~~in the step of~~said combining the captured image and the background image, ~~the captured~~  
~~image is combined~~ further comprises combining the captured image in the plurality of areas  
sequentially according to the predetermined order.